

#192. 1/4 page

THE MAGAZINE OF CELEBRITIES

# Celebrity NEWS



and  
CHARLES L. WAGNER  
Present

## MADAME BUTTERFLY

IN ENGLISH

OPERA IN THREE ACTS

Music by GIACOMO PUCCINI

Libretto by LUIGI ILICA and GIUSEPPE GIACOSA

Artistic Director: DESIRE DEFRERE

Conductor: ARMANDO ALIBERTI

Thursday, October Twenty-Eighth  
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INCORPORATED 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 1870

## CELEBRITY NEWS

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No. 4

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### The Story of "Madame Butterfly"

#### ACT I

Lieutenant Pinkerton, U.S.N., and Cio-Cio San, or Madame Butterfly, a Japanese girl, are about to enter into a Japanese marriage. Goro a marriage broker, has arranged the match, and has rented a little house on the hillside for them to live in. The American consul, Sharpless, a kind-hearted man, begs Pinkerton to forego this plan, because the girl believes the marriage to be binding. The lieutenant laughs at him, and the bride appears with her friends, joyous and smiling. Sharpless finds that to show her trust in Pinkerton she has renounced the faith of her ancestors so that she can never return to her own people. The marriage contract is signed and the guests are drinking a toast to the young couple, when the Bonze, a religious fanatic, uncle of Cio-Cio San, enters, uttering imprecations against her for renouncing her faith, and induces her relatives to abandon her. Pinkerton, annoyed, hurries the guests off, and they depart in anger. With loving words he consoles the weeping bride, and the two enter their dwelling rapturously.

(Continued on Page 5)

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Though the dour-faced comedian has seldom been given a truly funny line to recite in scores of movies and countless stage appearances, yet — by the mere lift of an eyebrow or curl of the lip or by inspired vocal intonation — he has managed to convey more of the comic spirit than all of the gag-and-slapstick artists of this age of electronic marvels.

The talented and versatile Mr. Treacher dips into the works of such noted humorists as A. P. Herbert, O. Henry, FPA, Saki, and, of course, P. G. Wodehouse, and others, for a rib-tickling program of wit, satire and humor, spiced with personal anecdotes from his long career in featured roles with the world's top stage and screen stars.



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## ACT II

Three years later. Pinkerton is absent in America, having promised to return "When the robins nest again." Suzuki, Madame Butterfly's faithful servant, rightly suspects that this means never, but is upbraided for want of faith by her trusting mistress. Butterfly is the mother of a fair-haired child. Sharpless has been deputed by Pinkerton in a letter to tell Butterfly that the lieutenant has married an American wife. Seeing her wonderful faith, the consul cannot bear to destroy it. Butterfly is so wild with delight at the sight of her lover's letter that she is unable to comprehend its contents and in her joy refuses to listen to Yamadori, a rich suitor brought by Goro, saying that she is already a wife. The consul departs sadly, just as the guns salute the newly arrived man-of-war, the 'Abraham Lincoln', Pinkerton's ship. Butterfly and Suzuki, in wild excitement, deck the house with flowers, and array themselves and the child in gala dress. All three peer through the Shoji to watch for Pinkerton's coming. As the night passes, Suzuki and the child fall asleep, but Butterfly, alert and sleepless, never stirs.

## ACT III

At dawn, Butterfly is still watching. Suzuki awakens and brings the baby to her. She persuades Butterfly to rest. Pinkerton and Sharpless arrive

(Continued on Page 6)



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and tell Suzuki the sad truth, but the lieutenant is deeply moved, and cannot remain. Suzuki, at first violently angry, is finally persuaded to listen as Sharpless tells her that Mrs. Pinkerton will care for the child if Butterfly will give him up. Butterfly appears, radiant, expecting to see Pinkerton, but is confronted instead by his wife. She receives the truth with pathetic calmness, politely congratulates the new wife, and asks her to tell her husband that in half an hour he may have the child, and that she herself will "find peace." Then having bowed her visitors out, she is left alone to face her sorrowful fate. At the appointed time Pinkerton and Sharpless return to find Butterfly dead by her own hand after having bidden farewell to her child. She has killed herself with her father's sword, the blade of which bears the inscription:

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† World Adventure Tours Series, at PLAYHOUSE

†	NORTH — Far North with Admiral Mac .....	Tue. Nov. 2
●	LONDON'S FESTIVAL BALLET .....	Thu., Fri., Sat. Nov. 18, 19, 20
	Subscribers' Night — Nov. 18 .....	Matinee — Sat. Nov. 20
●	ARTHUR TREACHER, Actor-Humorist .....	Tue. Nov. 30
●	BYRON JANIS, Pianist .....	Sat. Jan. 8
●	ARTUR RUBINSTEIN, Pianist .....	Sat. Jan. 22
†	SCOTLAND and the Western Isles .....	Sat. Jan. 29
●	VIENNA CHOIR BOYS .....	Mon. Jan. 31
●	WILLIAM WARFIELD, Baritone .....	Sat. Mar. 12
†	MEXICO — Gold Against the Sky .....	Mon. Mar. 14
†	SWITZERLAND and the Alps .....	Mon. Mar. 28
●	MINNEAPOLIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA .....	Tue. Mar. 29
●	JAN PEERCE, Tenor .....	Mon. Apr. 4
†	A NORWEGIAN'S NORWAY .....	Mon. Apr. 18
●	PHILHARMONIC PIANO QUARTET .....	Tue. May 3

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# MADAME BUTTERFLY

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I A house, terrace and garden in Nagasaki.

## INTERMISSION

ACTS II and III Interior of Cio-Cio San's house.

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## MADAME BUTTERFLY

OPERA IN THREE ACTS

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Founded upon the book by John L. Long and  
New English Translation by Ruth Crawford

Music by GIACOMO PUCCINI

THURSDAY, OCTOBER TWENTY

Artistic Director: Desire Defrere

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Cio-Cio San .....	ROSA SAVOIA
B. F. Pinkerton .....	JOHN ALEXANDER
U.S. Consul Sharpless .....	ROBERT ALLEN DEAN
Suzuki .....	MARIA RUSSO
Kate Pinkerton .....	VICTORIA JOYCE
Goro .....	HOWARD FRIED

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<b>The Imperial Commissary</b> .....	BARKEV LORIAN
<b>The Uncle Priest</b> .....	GEORGE DEL MONTE
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(Ferruccio Tagliavini)

## Biographical Sketches

### **ROSA SAVOIA (Cio-Cio San):**

Showing unmistakable signs of great musical talent at an early age, Miss Savoia won many musical scholarships, which enabled her to study under very fine maestros. She comes to the Wagner Opera Company for the first time, having had two successful seasons, singing leading soprano roles at the City Centre in New York.

### **JOHN ALEXANDER (Lieut. Pinkerton):**

A graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, John Alexander made his musical debut at the Cincinnati Summer Opera in 1950. This

(Continued on Page 15)

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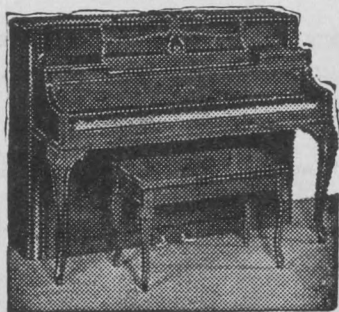
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## Notes of Interest

**About the Opera** . . . At its premiere in Milan fifty years ago, "Madame Butterfly" was a distinct fiasco. The audience perhaps was affronted at the strangeness of the settings, and the last half was considered too long. It was withdrawn, and Puccini made a few changes. Three months later it was presented in Brescia, where it immediately became a success, and since then it has been probably the most popular of all grand operas.

**About the Company** . . . The current season marks Charles L. Wagner's fifteenth successful operatic venture. His self-styled "opera-a-la-cart" (because they travel by chartered buses and truck) is one of the most compact theatrical ventures ever to travel. Scenic material is unique because it is adaptable to various sized stages and because it is completely collapsible to fit in the truck.

During the 1955-56 season, Charles L. Wagner will present as the second in his Trilogy of Opera in English, Puccini's ever-popular "La Boheme", in the new English version by Ruth and Thomas Martin, published by G. Schirmer.



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### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES (Cont.)

was judged by the newspapers as "a magnificent performance and a richly deserved success." He has since sung in leading opera companies throughout America and is especially remembered by Wagner Opera audiences for his superb portrayal of Alfredo in the Wagner Production "La Traviata" in 1951.

#### ROBERT ALLEN DEAN (Sharpless):

One of the most versatile young baritones, Robert Allen Dean is equally at home in opera, concert and the realm of lighter music. He has a large operatic repertoire, and his interpretation of the role of Sharpless has been considered "a model of naturalness" and "an histrionic credit to the American Consular Service."

#### MARIA RUSSO (Suzuki):

Her first major engagement came when she toured Canada in Menotti's "The Consul." This was followed by a contract with the Philadelphia Civic Opera and television appearances in "Opera

(Continued on Page 16)

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Cameos." Two years ago she had her first engagement with the Wagner Opera Company in the leading role of "Carmen."

**HOWARD FRIED (Goro):**

This young tenor has been engaged by many of the country's leading opera companies, as well as in the NBC-TV productions of Opera. Noted for his character roles, Mr. Fried has a tremendous repertoire and brings to the role of Goro a fresh interpretation.

**ARMANDO ALIBERTI (Conductor):**

Vienna born, Mr. Aliberti has specialized in Italian and French Opera in this country. It will be his fourth Wagner Opera tour, having previously been conductor for "Boheme", "La Traviata", and "Il Trovatore."

**DESIRE DEFRERE (Artistic Director):**

Belgian by birth, Mr. Defrere has long been active in the most famous opera companies of the world. Leading baritone and stage director at the Chicago Civic Opera Company for 23 years, he has been stage director at the Metropolitan Opera House for the past 24 years. He has staged and directed every Wagner Opera Production.



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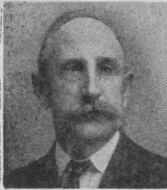
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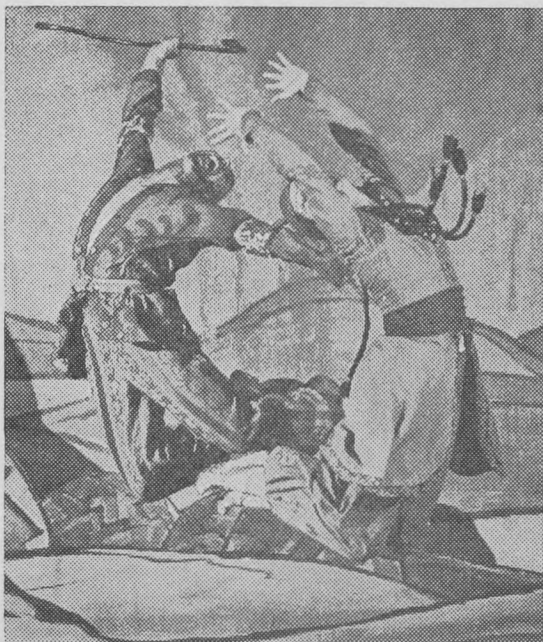
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